



Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Rewards and Consequences (The Full Story of Jesus pt 3)

This guide offers a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme

Walking With God

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the Blessed Hope of Christ's return. Help me live each day with purpose and readiness, seeking to align my heart and actions with Your will in anticipation of His coming. No matter the challenges I face, I trust in Your promise of eternal life and embrace the assurance that I am destined for Your presence, not for wrath. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Key Truths

Every New Testament author discusses the return of Christ, emphasizing its importance in Christian faith. In Luke 4, we learn that we are currently living in the "dispensation of grace," a period where God's grace and forgiveness are abundantly available to us. We should embrace the grace that has been given to us, so we can experience the things that Jesus said He came for—healing for the brokenhearted, sight for the blind, and liberty to those who've been captive.

When Jesus returns, He will first come for the Church. This anticipation prompts us to purify ourselves and ready for what is to come. Understanding this future event helps us live with a sense of urgency and purpose. When someone dies, it is natural to grieve, as death is an enemy. Yet, no matter how dire circumstances may seem, we have something profound to look forward to: the Blessed Hope, the promise of God's return.

The first time Jesus came, it was to deal with sin. When He comes again, it will be to deal with sinners. Though wrath and judgment are certain, believers are not appointed to endure God's wrath. This understanding helps us remain steadfast in our faith, as we anticipate not only Christ's coming for the Church but also His return with the Church.

Practical Application

We should eagerly receive the healing, sight, and liberty that Christ came to give us while we anticipate the return of the King, remaining patient yet ever prepared. Knowing that day is coming should transform the way we live. Let's keep our hearts filled with hope and readiness as we await His coming.

The goal of the Christian life is to walk with God. We've been given the beautiful gift of a relationship with our Creator and Heavenly Father. It's only in this life that we can uniquely experience God the way He created us to, before we pass away. We don't get another chance to change our minds and live in the fullness of what Christ made available.

Take a moment to pray and ask your Heavenly Father how He wants to engage with you in that relationship today. What He says will be life-giving, eye-opening, and freedom-giving if you'll embrace it.

Reference Verses

- Acts 1:9-11
- Luke 4:16-21, 21:36
- Revelation 6:15-17, 19:15
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1:10, 5:9
- 1 John 3:3, 2:28
- Hebrews 9:28
- Psalms 110:6
- Titus 2:13
- 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, 3:10-15
- Genesis 5:22-24
- John 3:16
- Jude 14-15
- 2 Kings 9:11

Declarations

- I look forward with hope and readiness for the return of Christ.
- I will live each day with purpose and readying myself for His coming.
- I embrace the Blessed Hope, knowing that no matter how difficult things get, I am not appointed to wrath but to eternal life in His presence.

What's Next?

The promise of Jesus' Second Coming is a cornerstone of our faith—a source of hope, purpose, and urgency. As believers, we are called to live with expectancy, align our lives with the Gospel, and draw strength from our faith community. These steps will help you live in readiness for Christ's return while growing closer to Him each day.

1. **Cultivate a Mindset of Expectancy:** Believe in the reality of Jesus' Second Coming as a foundational truth, allowing it to shape your life. Each day, strive to live with a deep awareness of His presence and the knowledge that His return could happen at any time. Deepen your understanding of this promise by studying and meditating on Scripture, particularly passages that speak of His return, such as 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.
2. **Live a Life Worthy of the Gospel:** Let your life reflect God's love and holiness by seeking to please Him through obedience and good works, as Paul encourages in Ephesians 4:1-3. Be a light to those

around you by sharing the hope of salvation and pointing others to Christ. As you await His return, use your time and resources wisely, prioritizing your relationship with God and serving others in meaningful ways.

- 3. Find Strength and Encouragement in Community:** Surround yourself with fellow believers who can inspire, support, and walk alongside you in your faith journey. Don't hesitate to reach out for prayer, guidance, or a listening ear when you need it. Together, look forward to the promise of eternal life with Christ, finding joy and hope in His glorious return.

Living in anticipation of Jesus' return isn't just about waiting—it's about growing in faith, serving others, and finding strength in God's promises. As you cultivate expectancy, live out the Gospel, and lean into the support of your faith community, you'll discover renewed purpose and joy. Remember, the promise of Christ's return isn't just a distant event—it's a present reality that transforms how we live today. Keep your heart focused, stay encouraged, and walk boldly in the hope of His coming!

Scripture References

Rewards & Consequences

Acts 1:9-10 NKJV Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel...

Acts 1:11 NKJV ...who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Luke 4:16-19 NKJV So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are [b]oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Isaiah 61:2 NKJV To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God...

Revelation 2:25-27 NKJV But hold fast what you have till I come. And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father...

Jude 14-15 NKJV "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all...

Jude 15 NKJV "...to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

1 Thessalonians 4:13 NKJV But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep...

2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV ...to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 NKJV For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord...

1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

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1 Thessalonians 4:17-18 NKJV Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Hebrews 9:28 NKJV ...so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 NKJV ... and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 NKJV For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Revelation 6:15-16 NKJV And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

Luke 21:36 NKJV Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Titus 2:13 NKJV ...looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ...

1 Corinthians 15:51-57 NKJV Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Jude 14 NKJV Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also...

Genesis 5:23-24 NKJV So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.

1 John 3:3 NKJV And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 John 2:28 NKJV And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 Corinthians 3:10-13 NKJV According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:15 NKJV If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.